

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is reprehensible. It is a violation of campaign ethics and is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead, Sinclair is using its power as a conglomerate to actually force local stations, many under protest, to air a program that is pure propaganda, and will skew the election through misrepresentation.

Stations that air this anti-Kerry documentary should be forced by the FCC to air Going Upriver or another positive piece on Kerry. It is outrageous that the public airwaves are being used to tilt the election results. If the FCC does not stop this, its authority and credibility will be greatly undermined. That's the FCC's job and mandate, to keep the airwaves from being used unfairly.

The real people from the communities where these local stations are should have their interests represented by what is shown as News, not the interests of a centralized political conglomerate.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.